

Ohio

Department of Medicaid

fact sheet

OVERVIEW

To help prevent lead poisoning, Ohio Medicaid covers blood lead testing for children enrolled on the program.

One and two year olds should be tested, and children between the ages of 36 and 72 months of age should also be tested unless there is documentation that notes they have already been screened.

Tests can be done at any doctor's visit. A doctor may also refer a child to be tested at another site.

Go online for more information:
<http://medicaid.ohio.gov/FOROHIOANS/Programs/Lead.aspx>

LEAD POISONING & PREVENTION

As part of its Healthchek program, Ohio Medicaid strives to protect children from lead poisoning. According to 2013 data, nearly 70% of Medicaid-eligible children younger than six old years old live in zip codes where there is a high risk for lead poisoning*.

A CLOSER LOOK AT OHIO'S PROGRAM:



WHAT IS LEAD POISONING?

Lead poisoning happens when lead is absorbed by the body through breathing or swallowing a contaminated substance. The most common source of lead exposure for children is deteriorated lead-based paint often found in homes built before 1978. Older homes are more likely to have lead paint and pipes that can contaminate drinking water. Other sources of lead include:

- » Polluted air, water and soil
- » Lead-based paint chips or dust
- » Certain jewelry and children's toys

Lead poisoning can cause learning disabilities, slowed growth, hearing loss, and developmental delays. Pregnant women with lead poisoning can pass lead to their unborn child, which can cause miscarriage, still birth, premature delivery, and low birth weight. Symptoms include: digestive problems (like diarrhea, stomach aches, or vomiting), fatigue, headaches, tooth decay, and loss of appetite.

Symptoms of lead poisoning are not always apparent. A blood lead test is the only way to determine if a child is poisoned.



LEAD TESTING PERFORMANCE GOAL

Ohio Medicaid tracks lead testing performance among Medicaid children and reports its findings annually to the federal government.

To meet the goal of increased blood lead testing, Ohio Medicaid partners with the Ohio Department of Health and others to address Ohio's plan to eliminate lead poisoning. These collaborations have nearly doubled the lead testing rates for children enrolled on Medicaid within the last ten years.

For questions about lead poisoning and prevention, contact the Department of Health's Ohio Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at (877) 532-3723.

For more information from the Ohio Department of Health, visit:

<https://www.odh.ohio.gov/>

*SFY 2013 data calculated by the Ohio Department of Medicaid, Quality Decision Support System.